

NIH POLICY MANUAL

3015 - ADMITTANCE OF CHILDREN TO HAZARDOUS AREAS

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1. **Explanation of Material Transmitted:** This chapter sets forth NIH policy on the admittance of children to Clinical Center areas and work areas that may contain inherently or potentially hazardous chemicals, radioactive materials, biohazards or hazardous equipment.

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A. Purpose:

This chapter sets forth NIH policy on the admittance of children to NIH Clinical Center, hazardous buildings, trade, craft or laboratory work areas that may contain inherently or potentially hazardous chemicals, radioactive materials, biohazards or hazardous equipment. This policy shall apply to all children who are not employees at the NIH, but come to the campus for tours, day care or visit. Persons who are formally registered as Normal Volunteers, Student Volunteers or Special Volunteers are considered "employees" for purposes of this policy.

B. References:

1. Exposure of Minors, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Rules and Regulations, Title 10, Chapter 1, Code of Federal Regulations - Energy,

Standards for Protection Against Radiation, Part 20, Section 104.

2. Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories, U.S. DHHS, Centers for Disease Control and National Institutes of Health. HHS Publication No. (CDC) 84-8395. 3rd Edition, May 1993.
3. NIH Manual Chapter [1340](#) - "NIH Occupational Safety and Health Management."

C. Responsibilities:

NIH employees have a continuing responsibility to assure a safe work environment for themselves, their co-workers, Clinical Center patients and their guests. Supervisors are specifically responsible for the safety of all employees and visitors in their work areas. The Division of Safety provides support to employees and supervisors in meeting these responsibilities.

D. Definitions:

1. Laboratory Director - Used in the same context as in "Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories" (CDC/NIH, HHS, 1993) to mean the officially designated Supervisor (Branch Chief, Section Chief, Laboratory Chief or Principal Investigator) who has responsibility for all activities within a laboratory. A laboratory director contemplating a visit by his/her own children will obtain written authorization from his/her supervisor.
2. Office - Shall be a room which is physically separated from a laboratory. An office that is an integral part of a laboratory room will be considered to be "laboratory" rather than "office" space.

E. Policy:

1. Laboratories - Visiting children under 12 years of age will not be allowed into any laboratory area except with the specific written permission of the laboratory director.

Visiting children under 18 years of age will not be allowed into areas posted with radiation warning signs, or into any animal facility, except with the specific written permission of the laboratory or animal facility director.

Furthermore, visiting children under 18 years of age are never allowed into the following areas: laboratories posted at Biosafety Level 3 or Biosafety Level 4; laboratories in which infectious agents are being actively manipulated; laboratories in which chemical carcinogens or other acutely toxic chemicals are actively handled; areas of high radiation or airborne radioactivity (as defined in 10 CFR 20.104).

2. Hazardous Building, Trade or Craft Areas - Specific written permission of the appropriate supervisor is required before visiting children under 12 years of age

will be allowed into any shop, mechanical space or construction site. All children must be continually supervised while in such areas. Furthermore, children will not be allowed into areas posted with restrictive warning signs. Examples are: "Danger - Asbestos," "High Voltage," "Caution - PCBs," "Danger - High Noise Hazard," "Authorized Personnel Only."

3. Clinical Center - Nonpatient children under 12 years of age will not be allowed into any Clinical Center laboratory, treatment room, patient isolation room, operating or recovery room, ICU or other "restricted" area, except with the specific written permission of the attending physician, head nurse or other appropriate supervisor. All children must be continually supervised while in such areas.

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